

THE CIMARRON NEWS AND PRESS

NOTE—The type used in this heading is from the old plant of the Cimarron News and Press and was used for a heading for the paper in the seventies.

VOL I

CIMARRON, NEW MEXICO, THURSDAY, JANUARY 24, 1907

NO. 3

Valuations Placed By Territorial Board

Sheep Men will Pay more Taxes Next year on Account of Increased Values

Valuations placed by the territorial board of equalization upon the different classes of property throughout the territory of New Mexico, at its regular January meeting, 1907.

On the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe railroad company, from its Albuquerque depot north, per mile, \$7,500.00.

On all its side tracks and switches, per mile, \$1,000.00.

On its Blossburg branch, per mile, \$3,500.00.

All valuations upon other property belonging to railroad companies doing business in the territory of New Mexico, except main tracks, branches, side lines, switches and rolling stock, is hereby fixed at the same valuation as such property was assessed in the various counties in the year 1906, that class of property including buildings, round houses, repair and machine shops, tools, implements and supplies, and all other property not included in main line, side lines, switches and branches and rolling stock, and in case there is any additional property of this class which was not assessed in the year 1906, its valuation is hereby fixed and established at the same valuation as similar class of property was assessed in the year 1906.

The Santa Fe Pacific railway lands in alternate sections at 25 cents per acre.

Agricultural Land.

Agricultural land in actual cultivation with permanent water rights not less than \$15 per acre.

Agricultural lands actually in cultivation without permanent water rights not less than \$7.50 per acre.

Agricultural lands capable of cultivation, but not actually in cultivation, under ditch or artesian lands, not less than \$5 per acre.

Grazing Lands.

Grazing lands with stock water thereon by wells or otherwise, so located or situated as to utilize privileges of grazing on government lands, per acre, \$1.25.

Grazing lands so situated or located as to utilize grazing privileges on government land, without stock water, per acre, \$1.00.

Grazing lands other than above specified, per acre, 30 cents.

Timber lands, west of the Rio Grande within ten miles of railroad \$3.00 per acre.

Timber lands east of the Rio Grande, within ten miles of any railroad, \$3.50 per acre.

All other timber lands over ten miles from any railroad, \$1.50 per acre.

Coal lands within ten miles of any operated railroad, per acre, \$20.00.

Coal lands, more than ten miles from a railroad, per acre, \$10.00.

Mineral Lands.

All patented mineral lands, other than coal lands, per acre, \$20.00.

The value fixed upon agricultural, timber, coal, mineral and grazing lands are intended to apply to and include all land grants, and agricultural, timber, coal, mineral and grazing lands on such grants, shall be classified and assessed as such by the proper officers.

City, town, village and all other property not herein enumerated shall be assessed upon a basis of 60 per cent of its cash value.

Stock horses, per head.....\$12.50

Saddle horses, per head..... 15.00

American horses, per head..... 40.00

American mules, per head..... 50.00

Common mules, per head..... 15.00

Stock cattle north of the 35th parallel, per head..... 10.00

Stock cattle south of the 35th parallel, per head..... 9.00

Cattle, other than range stock, per head..... 15.00

Common goats, per head..... 1.00
Improved Angora goats, per head..... 2.00
Sheep, per head..... 1.75
Burros, per head..... 2.00
Swine, per head..... 3.50

Banks.

National and other banking stock and surplus, at 60 per cent of its par value, and all real estate and improvements belonging to such banks, to be assessed as other property in that locality, except banking buildings where any portion of its capital stock is invested in such buildings.

Telegraph and Telephone Lines.

All telegraph lines carrying one wire, per mile, \$50.00.

For each additional wire, per mile, \$5.00.

Local telephone companies, in cities, towns and villages for each telephone instrument, \$10.00.

For long distance telephone companies, charging rates not to exceed 30 cents per message, per mile, for one wire, \$20.00.

For each additional wire, per mile, \$5.00.

For long distance telephone companies charging rates more than fifty cents per message, carrying one wire, per mile, \$30.00.

For each additional wire, per mile, \$5.00.

We again call attention to the fact that some district attorneys are negligent in their duties and are not properly enforcing the law regarding the collection of taxes.

We also call attention to the fact that assessors do not pay enough attention to the assessment of lumber companies and coal lands in the various counties of the territory, and any omission should be looked into and corrected by the county commissioners.

It is well to mention the fact that there has been a marked increase in the return of all classes of property throughout the territory, especially in towns and cities, and also a more uniform and equal assessment and a great increase in the collection of taxes during the last two years.

JAMES S. DUNCAN,

President.

Attest:
VENCESLAO JARAMILLO,

Secretary.

PAINTER HAS SERIOUS FALL FROM SCAFFOLD.

E. C. Eals, a painter employed on the new round house building of the Rocky Mountain Route, fell a distance of about fifteen feet, on last Friday, and sustained serious injuries.

Eals, who has been working here for some time, lives in Trinidad. His injuries consist of two broken ribs and a number of bad bruises. He was taken to his home in Trinidad on the train Saturday morning.

A GOOD PLACE FOR A LAUNDRY.

T. J. Belisle of Raton, came down on business on the Sunday evening train, and looked over the laundry field. Mr. Belisle has two laundries on his hands at Raton, and Cimarron would be a mighty good place to put one.

Miss Dugan, of Ute Creek, is visiting her aunt, Mrs. Grant Shahan.

Mr. and Mrs. Geo. H. Webster of the Urracca Ranch, near Cimarron, left on last Thursday for a trip to Chicago, where Mr. Webster will transact some important business.

Good Fortune for An Old Rancher

After holding through every vicissitude incident to frontier life and facing all the hardships that could be crowded into twenty-one years, Alex. Wersonick, familiarly known to his friends as "Dutch" Aleck, last week transferred his entire right and title in his old ranch of 1,200 acres and 1,280 acres additional, which he had recently purchased, over to the Yankee Fuel company. The consideration cannot be named in exact figures but it is reliably stated to amount to many thousands of dollars. This property lies on Barela Mesa, beginning one mile and a half east of Yankee, which is eight miles east of Raton, and a town built up by the industries of the Yankee Fuel company. It was through some strategy that Mr. Wersonick accomplished the sale of his old homestead, which lies still farther east of Yankee on Barela Mesa. The land lying between this homestead and Yankee was held by a half dozen or so of settlers, most of them foreigners, and was conceded to be the probable purchase of the Yankee Fuel company at such time as they should please to use it. After they had purchased and used this land, would come Mr. Wersonick's only chance but "Dutch" Aleck was not asleep for he lay awake nights to conceive a plan whereby this large and powerful corporation would need his land, need it badly and immediately. So he saddled his horse with some of the old determination that marked him when he rode the range in days gone by and hid him to his neighbors and laid his plan of immediate sale before them, riding night and day and never stopping until a contract for every acre which lay in the way of his sale of his own land, was in his pocket.

"Dutch" Aleck had not rode the range and faced the storm, coming the twenty miles from his home to Raton in the early days for supplies, poorly clad and the wants of his

family only fairly well provided for, for naught. He named his price, which was but a fair one, and insisted that the company pay it; this was a most important deal for the corporation; they could go no farther east without a wide and costly detour and the securing of this bit of land meant the assurance of their success in the Yankee district. And, after a very little more delay, the deal was closed, and Alex. Wersonick transferred to George T. Peart, vice-president and general manager of the Yankee Fuel company, his right, title and interest in the above named real estate. Mr. Wersonick was entirely satisfied with the sale and speaks in complimentary terms of the treatment accorded him by the company to which he sold. Mr. Wersonick owns no other property in this vicinity except a seven acre tract called Wersonick Addition, which lies adjacent to the Miners' hospital grounds in the southwest part of town. Here Mr. Wersonick will build an elegant and comfortable home. Mr. Wersonick's family consists of himself and wife, two sons and a daughter. The eldest son, Aleck, is employed by the Yankee Mercantile company, the youngest is at home with his parents, and the daughter, Miss Julia Wersonick, a very popular young lady in Raton, is a present spending a few months in Panama, where she went last November with friends, and is at present in Colon, but expects to return home in April or May. Mr. Wersonick has not enjoyed the best of health for the last few years and feels this altitude rather high for him as well as for his daughter and expects to arrange a home somewhere on the coast for their use apt of the time, but their real home will always be in Raton. Mr. Wersonick expects to invest a part of his fortune in Raton properties and securities, and will always retain a full interest in Raton and her people.

Denver Smelter Men Visit Colfax County

A party of railroad men and officials of the American Smelting & Refining company came down from Denver on Thursday to take a trip over the Rocky Mountain. They came in their own special car and were joined here by J. van Houten, vice-president and general manager of the Rocky Mountain & Pacific railroad and W. A. Gorman, general passenger and freight agent of the same road. The Denver party included Messrs. Young and Johnson, of the Colorado Fuel & Iron company, and Messrs. McGowan of New York, purchasing agent of the American Smelting & Refining company, E. W. Eckles, vice-president of the American Smelting & Refining company, J. A. Sproul, traffic manager of the same company and Mr. Schumacher, traffic manager of the El Paso & Southwestern railway. The

party went from Raton to Kahler, where they went through the mines, looking over the many new improvements of the company there and from there they went to Vermijo, where they took the El Paso & Southwestern to Dawson. The Rocky Mountain party returned from Dawson to Raton and the Denver party proceeded to El Paso. The Denver gentlemen expressed themselves as much pleased and very much surprised at the improvement, not alone at the mines of the Rocky Mountain company, but with the new railway and general outlook. There is no significance in a business way to be attributed to this visit as it was merely a pleasure trip, following a tour of inspection of the properties of the American Smelting & Refining company officials in southern Colorado, while enroute to their refinery at El Paso.

Hermit Bears his Secrets to the Grave

The body of Joe Smith, a hermit, who had lived for fifteen years in a lonely nook in Willow gulch, near Elizabethtown, was found on Monday of last week by a deputy sheriff from Elizabethtown, badly decomposed and with the face eaten away by mountain rats. The old man had been accustomed to come to Elizabethtown every few weeks and occasionally received mail at the saloon of Jake Kammemeyer; and, as he did not come for some time, his friends in town became fearful that something might have happened to him; after a few days' wondering, a deputy sheriff was sent up the mountain to the old man's cabin and found his body as above related. It is supposed, from the appearance of the body, that he had been dead for a week or ten days. Some friends of his from E-town went up and

brought down the body and gave him a decent burial. The old man had lived very hard, though he always seemed to have plunger gold about him, which he took from claims surrounding his cabin, belonging to the Maxwell Land Grant, claiming for his subsistence the living the world owed him. He is said to have confided to friends in town that he worked daily in the placer ground and had buried his findings against his day of need, but death overtook him suddenly and whatever he had of treasure lies buried in some unknown spot near the old cabin in which he died. If he real name was, as he claimed, Joe Smith, the intelligence may reach any friends he may have had through the public press. If his name was not Joe Smith, his identity is lost and who he was may never be revealed.

A Mesa Farmer At the Capitol

Commissioner Burch while in Santa Fe last week Said Many Good things

What do you think of a man who would induce his son-in-law to move away from town so that he could occupy the vacated house? That is what was done by E. N. Burch of Raton, a prominent rancher and a member of the Board of County Commissioners of Colfax county. However he could not be blamed under the circumstances as it did not require much persuasive argument on the part of the astute father-in-law.

Mr. Burch has been in the capital for a few days attending the meeting of the territorial board of equalization. He was seen last evening at the Claire hotel by a reporter of the New Mexican. The incident came up in the course of the conversation and he chuckled after he had related it. It happened in this way, to use his own words:

"I rented my farm and leased my cattle several months ago and moved to Raton. There were no vacant houses to be found anywhere in the town and it was a month before I finally got a place. I might have been looking for a house yet if it hadn't been that my son-in-law moved to California. He had been thinking of going out there for some time and I rather encouraged him."

Farming on Johnson's Mesa.

Mr. Burch has been engaged in farming for several years on Johnson's mesa, a fertile stretch of table land seven miles in width and four teen miles in length, which lies about twenty miles south of Raton. He is of the opinion that this particular tract cannot be excelled anywhere in New Mexico when it comes to raising crops of grain and vegetables without irrigation. Speaking about its advantages for agricultural purposes he said:

"Farming is being carried on very successfully on Johnson's mesa. I am more interested in it than anything else because it is my home. I was settled in the first place by coal miners who went out on a strike. It was supposed at the time that the mesa was valueless for farming purposes on account of its high altitude. The cattlemen there did all they could to discourage the new settlers."

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but being compelled to make a living some way the miners turned farmers and clung to it. The result is that a country was developed which we think can not be surpassed in New Mexico for dry farming. I might say further that the value of the land in that locality in the last few years has increased from \$2.50 to \$12 an acre.

Good Crops of Grain and Vegetables.

"The principal products consist of small grain such as oats, wheat and barley and potatoes. Our potatoes are not excelled even by the famous Greeley potatoes. Where sugar beets have been tried they have grown abundantly and without any trouble. There has never been any test made of the beets raised on the mesa as to their sugar bearing qualities but to all appearances they are as fine as those raised in Colorado."

"Our average yield of winter wheat for the past five years has been about fourteen bushels to the acre. Wheat has been raised there that made forty-two bushels to the acre. If it wasn't for the wind in the spring the average crop per acre would be much larger. There is always more than enough wheat to seed the ground that is blown away. The average yield of oats is about thirty bushels but we very often see fields that make from sixty to seventy-five bushels to the acre."

Fine Opening for Creamery.

"Johnson's mesa it seems to me would be an ideal place for a creamery. Cattle of all kinds do well and milk cows will give an abundance of milk off of the native grass from which an excellent quality of butter can be made. I am rather timid about having anything pointed that concerns myself or my doings but on our own farm we have made for the last four years from an average of eight cows during the year a little over four hundred pounds of butter which was sold at thirty cents per pound."

"The Yankee Fuel company has established a coal camp at Yankee only ten miles away that will to a great extent consume all the produce that we can raise which of course will increase the value of the land by

IDEAL CLIMATIC CONDITION AID IN RAILROAD BUILDING

The Utah Construction company of Ogden, Utah, the corporation which has had the grading of the St. Louis, Rocky Mountain & Pacific road in this county, completed their work on last Tuesday, and the last car of their materials and outfit was shipped on Saturday afternoon.

The work extended over a period of more than fourteen months, and a story of the daily progress would bring out many interesting features. More than one hundred and ten miles of grading was accomplished, the greater portion of it by teams, as the nature of the ground was such that the steam shovel was of little use, except in the deeper cuts. Most of the work was done on a level country, comparatively, although there was stone work in the canons.

Pictureque Cimarron Canon was one of the most difficult pieces of work ever done in the southwest. Here the engineer accomplished some wonderful feats, in keeping the grade down to the requirements of a transcontinental railroad, and the construction company had plenty to do in handling the heavy work here. In

the earth work along this canon the ground in many instances would have assayed enough in gold to have more than paid for its removal, if the means to work it had been at hand. In the upper Cimarron in days gone by were many placer diggings, and the traces of the old sluices and rockers are still found. But railroad contractors are too busy to hunt for gold and if there was any pay dirt turned over it will remain for the more fortunate prospector and the smelter man to reap the benefits.

Along the entire line of the road, ideal conditions prevailed. Feed and supplies were to be had in our own market here, and at several points along the road. The labors of the commissary department were comparatively easy. Climatic conditions, coupled with the fact that the road runs through a well-watered section made the work exceptionally easy as compared with most contracts. Water from running streams was obtainable at all times within a radius of three miles from the grade or camps. The hospital department con-

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